



SECRETARIAT

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8 November 2016

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris 7 November 2016

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting in Paris on 7 November 2016, with Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The situation in Aleppo** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, France, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; held a hearing with the participation of Ms Florence Gaub, Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies, and Mr Frédéric Pichon, political scientist, specialist on the Middle-East, author of a doctoral thesis on Syria and research fellow at the University of Tours; considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Funding of the Terrorist Group Daesh** (*Rapporteur: Mr Phil Wilson, United Kingdom, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views with Mr Tom Keatinge, Director, Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies at the Royal United Services Institute, United Kingdom;
- **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on recent developments in Turkey:**
 - approved the list of members as follows:
 - Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
 - Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD)
 - Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC)
 - Ms Kelly Tolhurst (United Kingdom, EC)
 - Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE)
 - Mr George Loucaides (Cyprus, UEL)
 - heard statements by Mr Talip Küçükcan, Chairperson of the Turkish Delegation, and Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission followed by an exchange of views;
 - decided to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on the measures provided in the recent emergency decree-laws in Turkey with respect to freedom of the media;
- **Sub-Committee on the Middle East and the Arab World:** heard a statement by Lord Anderson, acting as Chairperson, and took note that the Sub-Committee would be unable to meet in Tunisia before the end of the year;
- **Sub-Committee on External Relations:** heard a statement by Ms Aleksandra Djurović (Serbia, EPP/CD) regarding the preparation of the meetings which will take place in New York from 7 to 9 December 2016;

– **Work programme:**

- appointed Mr Bogdan Klich (Poland, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on the *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco* and heard from him a declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- called for candidates for report on the *Activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)* and for opinion on *The humanitarian crisis in Gaza*;

– **Authorisations by the Committee:**

- approved the request by Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Egypt, from 4 to 6 December 2016, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *The political transition in Egypt* (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- decided to transmit to the Bureau of the Assembly the request for the extension until 30 June 2017 of the reference on *The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan*;

– **Changes in the composition of the Sub-Committees:** appointed Mr Oleksii Goncharenko (Ukraine, EC) as member of the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD;

– **Other business:**

- took note that a seminar on the death penalty, organised by the Belarusian authorities in cooperation with the Council of Europe, should take place in Minsk in December, the date to be confirmed and approved the request by Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) to participate (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly);
- took note that the authorities of Kyrgyzstan decided not to request a second opinion of the Venice Commission on revised constitutional amendments which will be submitted to the referendum on 11 December 2016;

– **Next meetings:** confirmed the forthcoming meetings as follows:

- Ankara, 21-23 November 2016, *Ad hoc* Sub-Committee on recent developments in Turkey
- New York, 7-9 December 2016, Sub-Committee on External Relations
- Paris, 15 December 2016.

D. Chatzivassiliou, J. Ary, P. Chevtchenko, S. Arzilli

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Director and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe